

**HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
FULL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
November 17, 2010, 4:30p.m.
Council Chambers**

PRESENT

Trena Carter
Greg Lewis
Tony McClendon
Gil Palmer
Rosalind Pegram
Shiva Rallapalli
John Roberts
John Stroh

ABSENT

Rhea Baker-Ipek
Ian Kohen

Meeting Called to Order

STAFF PRESENT:

Director Arlette Cooper Tinsley, Deputy Director Lorraine Smith and Secretary Lula Young.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Commissioner Roberts called roll and requested any corrections or amendments to the July 2010 minutes.

**Commissioner Carter moved to accept the July 30, 2010 minutes as submitted.
Commissioner Kohen seconded. Motion carried.**

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Commissioner Carter reported no financial activity in the month of October and the Donations Account balance as \$6,287.06.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Director Tinsley informed Commissioners that staff continues to be very busy with recent cases that are very complex and involve disability issues, the Whistleblower's Act, Fair Labor Standards Act and the Family Medical Leave Act. Additional activities included a visit from the new executive director of ICRC, Jamal Smith who met with Chairperson Palmer at city hall.

Director Tinsley reported that with the political season heating up, she had met with potential candidates for city offices at their request, and responded to requests to provide copies of the city ordinance relevant to the creation of the Human Rights Commission, Human Resources and other requested ordinances, copies of the budget for both departments and clarification of her duties managing two (2) departments and discussion of her efforts to keep the Personnel and Human Rights departments separate. The Director continued and informed Commissioners that many changes could be coming with a new mayor, clerk-treasurer and several new city council members coming in 2012. Discussion ensued.

OPEN FORUM:

Deputy Director Smith reported that the African-American Pastors were continuing to have education meetings for community members. The most recent meeting was held at Calvary Community church where she provided information about the Commission and supported Ric King in providing information about the Police Audit and Review Committee.

Chairperson Palmer commented that this was another attempt to galvanize the African-American community into action, reintroduce, and encourage the utilization of available community resources. Discussion addressing attendance, Parent University participation and questions about recent events ensued.

Commissioner McClendon shared a locally historical significant event that had taken place. He advised that fourteen years after racial tension and hostilities from Martinsville caused BCSC to cut Martinsville from its' sports schedules, the Central Middle School football team played against a Martinsville school in Martinsville, Indiana. He advised that the 2010 experience was made one his most positive experiences by the Martinsville community as a whole. He shared one of his first experiences dealing with Martinsville where his job was threatened by an athletic director at that time.

Commissioner Roberts shared his experience in 1967 Louisville, when the Kentucky Derby Parade was cancelled because death threats were made towards him as the first African-American Drum Major slated to march in the parade.

Commissioners Lewis and Roberts related personal experiences with forced busing in the Jefferson County school system. Discussion ensued.

ACTION ITEM – 2011 Meeting Dates:

Commissioners reviewed the dates for 2011 Full Commission and Executive Committee meetings.

Commissioner Lewis moved to accept the dates presented. Commissioner Carter seconded. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM – 2011 Commission Goals & Objectives:

Director Tinsley presented the 2011 Goals and Objectives. Discussion ensued. Commissioners requested changes to Educating the Public - Objectives, to list 'Organizations' as specific group names change over time. Under Networking with the Community – Objectives, the last bullet point wording should be *Cabinets* instead of *Cabinet*. The last change/correction requested was to add '*Support*' to the Dr. King Day celebrations under Challenging Attitudes & Systems. . . – Objectives.

Commissioner Lewis moved to accept the 2011 Goals & Objectives with corrections. Commissioner Stroh seconded. Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS – Ad Hoc Committee Update:

Commissioner Rallapalli advised the Ad hoc committee is preparing to meet again and an update will be prepared afterwards.

OTHER BUSINESS – Annual Dinner:

Deputy Director Smith reviewed the biographies of five (5) potential keynote speakers and requested Commissioner input and preference. After discussion, Commissioners requested the

first invitations be sent to those speakers that would be traveling from a distance before contacting local candidates.

Commissioner Roberts suggested Tom Snyder, from Ivy Tech be considered as a future speaker.

Director Tinsley requested, and received, approval from the board to solicit nominations from the community for the 2011 William R. Laws Human Rights award.

OTHER BUSINESS – LEGAL UPDATE:

Director Tinsley informed Commissioners that the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) had issued final regulations implementing Title II of the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (GINA) and provided each Commissioner with a written overview of the regulation. Discussion ensued.

LIAISON UPDATE – INTERFAITH FORUM COLUMBUS (IFC):

Commissioner Lewis advised that the IFC will be celebrating its 10th anniversary in conjunction with Reconciliation Day. He went on to advise that the members are attempting to locate a new venue for their meetings and discussed other possibilities within City Hall.

LIAISON UPDATE – IMMIGRATION ISSUES GROUP :

Commissioner Pegram advised that the group had not met in the last couple of months as Laura Hurt is now in the Director of Volunteer Services, a different department of CRH.

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned.